

Nichols

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN



VOLUME XXX:::NO. 1.

BOSTON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1870.

WHOLE NUMBER 1506.

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN
NEW ENGLAND'S AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL

(Official Organ of the N. E. Agricultural Society,
SAURO WILKES AT
81 & 82 North Market Street, Boston,
(Opposite Faneuil Hall).

ONE DOLLAR PER ANNUUM, TO ADVANCE
\$2.00 PER
\$2.00 IN ADVANCE. Single copies Six CENTS.
No paper or all savings are paid.

The PLOUGHMAN is published and stored
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TERMS OF ADVERTISING. One dollar per insertion,
\$1.00 per week. A liberal discount made on large orders.

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Postage on the PLOUGHMAN is 20 cents & a few
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Editorial.

OCTOBER ON THE FARM.

The harvesting must be hurried on this
month with reduced energy. Corn is to
be gathered and harvested, and apples to be
picked the earliest, so as to avoid damage by frost,
and many other field crops.

The vines will stand a greater degree of
cold without injury than the mangolds. We
have sometimes seen the latter left in the
ground too long. The freezing and frost
which they give towards the end of
October and early in November injures their
quality. It is however well enough to let them
grow as long as practicable, for the drought was so severe through August
and September, that they have not filled out
so well as usual, and they make in early
October a large part of their growth in Septem-
ber and October. After the vines are cut, the
ground will easily next month, but our
experience and observation are against it.

Some farmers pull mangolds and throw
them into piles where they can easily be
eaten up nights. In that way and by the
exercise of a little care, they can be kept out
till quite late in the season and so avoid the
risk of freezing and injury in the bin.

We must bear in mind that all feeding
substances for stock will be high this winter
and make the most of everything in the
shape of roots, stalks, pumpkins and other
materials which help out so hasty.

Apples are low in price on account of their
great abundance. Still it will pay to gather
them by hand, and the best way is to
keep the stems from the apples as much as
possible injured by shaking or dropping from
a tree. Many of them have already fallen, to
be accounted the want of moisture and such
will generally be used for cider.

The amount of cider made this year will be
unusually large.

Continue the fall ploughing if there is time
to be spared from other work. It is a very
great gain on the work of next spring to get
the land well ploughed in the fall, and be-
sides, some kinds of lands, like clays and
heavy soils not subject to wash, are greatly
benefited by lying exposed to the weather
through the winter. In addition to these
advantages the teams are now stronger and
hardier able to plough than they will be in the
spring.

As the manner which has accumulated
during the season under a roof or in the
yard, it should be cleared out and haulled to
the field where it may be composted near
where it is to be wasted in the spring.

Five hundred bushels of manure, and
one acre is to be the quantity to be spread
over each acre, and will allow two to three
inches to be spread over each acre.

The keeping of the manure in the
winter is a good plan, as it is more
convenient to spread it in the spring.

The vines were planted in the spring of
1868, the edges of these beds were
left wide, with a path on each side of them; from
these beds I sold, in 1868, a little over \$400
worth of fruit and plants, and the only
losses were from the cost of shipping.

The loss was about \$100.

enclosed with hawthorn hedge fences, which look very pretty. These immense trees are now about half their size when harvested. I notice the crops are about dead's out in New England on an average. The earth here is dark red, and the whole town is covered with deep red soil, with common red sandstone, which is used extensively for building purposes. Bricks are made of this red earth in almost all parts of the town. The trees are about two feet high, and are in clusters, bases of any I have yet seen. More than three-quarters of all the buildings in the town are built of these bricks.

The climate of England is not so severe as ours, but it is much more so at this season of the year. I have seen no time when there was too warm for woolen clothing. But here they have an effect in the heavy fogs which hang over the town nearly one-half the time, and in the dense black smoke by the banks of the river, which covers every thing here. This is indeed intolerable. In damp and foggy weather the smoke falls to the ground, fills all space and leaves its southerns here.

Everybody would not be my choice for a boy, but I have no doubt of its being a good business place and quite healthy, with an even climate, both summer and winter.

2.0. V.

The Ploughman.

BOSTON, SATURDAY, OCT. 1, 1870.

AGRICULTURE TRIUMPHANT.

The croakers are not borne out by the census. The hill farms of New England may have been abandoned for the valleys, but the statistics of production do not show this. The number of men and people is increasing, but rather a positive and most promising increase. And the census may likewise show, in like manner, that the large towns and cities are increasing in their full proportion during the last decade, but fails to show that it has been done at the expense of the farming interest. To say that certain States have not generally increased in population, while their cities and towns have specifically increased, is not to meet the real question. The point is, whether agriculture itself has fallen away. And the simple fact of the growth of the cities would be admitted to Prussia, as the only material guarantee against a future invasion. These terms are applied to the authorities, and let him raise it, but mind that he does not use his muscle to the hurt of his brain, or in other words a Beecher says, over wrought muscle and an active brain do not go together.

Above all things preserve the brain and farm with manure, manure, manure, and will have abundant crops.

Also keep an accurate account of the cost of your products. What would a farmer think of a shoe manufacturer who guessed at the cost of his shoes? and yet is not a large part of the product raised on a farm in the same manner that it would be for the manufacturer to guess at the cost of his goods. Hoping this may provoke and help stir up the farming for profit question.

STRASBURG SURRENDERED

The city of Strasburg surrendered on the 27th after sustaining a most vigorous siege of about six weeks. The French commands Gen. Ulrich, held out to the last, and only yielded at present necessity. The sufferings of the inhabitants during the siege have been most terrible. The ten thousand statesmen on the entrance of the general and officers commanding into the city the spectacle that met their gaze was most harrowing. No details have been given by fugitives from that city approach the dreadful death-horrors of a siege which appears to have been inflicted at Strasburg in a manner quite revolting even to those who have endured the hardships and seen the horrors of the recent campaign in Europe. About 450 officers and 17,000 men surrendered with the place. This event relieves a large force of Germans to aid in the siege of Paris.

FARMERS' LIFE.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

Having read in the last issue of your paper the speeches and doings at the New England fair, it set me to viewing and comparing the Farmers' life.

I believe a man of small capital is doing well for himself if he can make out to have work enough to support him and his family, and have room and rest to live on.

The audience sang Whittier's beautiful lines—

"O, Faust! the faults and flaws."

After which short speeches were made by Hon. Charles L. Flint, Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture, Hon. Albert Fearing of Hingham, Mr. Ellsworth of the State Board, and Mr. Cummings, President of the Middlesex Society.

The numbers were greatly augmented for the afternoon, the grand stand was filled, and the grounds were thickly covered with carriages. There must have been at least 3000 people in attendance. The dust was finely pulverized that much of the time it hung like a smoke cloud over the enclosure.

Much of the success of the Fair is due to the untiring labor of the Secretary, Mr. Henry D. Hilditch, and the promptness and efficiency of Mr. Thomas Decatur, the Chief Marshal.

The opening of the principal premiums were as follows:

HORSES.—CLAS.—BRODHEAD, Breed Master; and FAIR.—1st, John D. Dartmouth, Coston & Co.; 2nd, W. C. H. Webb, Boston; 3rd, W. T. G. Griggs, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Cattle.—FIRST, Mr. Nathan, 2d, W. M. Moore, First; 2d, W. G. Griggs, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Sheep.—FIRST, Mr. Nathan, 2d, W. M. Moore, First; 3rd, W. G. Griggs, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Ducks.—FIRST, Mr. Nathan, 2d, W. M. Moore, First; 3rd, W. G. Griggs, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Pigs.—FIRST, Mr. Nathan, 2d, W. M. Moore, First; 3rd, W. G. Griggs, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Goats.—FIRST, Mr. Nathan, 2d, W. M. Moore, First; 3rd, W. G. Griggs, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Chickens.—FIRST, Mr. Nathan, 2d, W. M. Moore, First; 3rd, W. G. Griggs, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Geese.—FIRST, Mr. Nathan, 2d, W. M. Moore, First; 3rd, W. G. Griggs, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Swallows.—FIRST, Mr. Nathan, 2d, W. M. Moore, First; 3rd, W. G. Griggs, Brooklyn, N.Y.

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